

Dr. Burgess Special Address: May 10, 2018 Update on Our Fight Against the Opioid Crisis

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This spring, I've spent a significant amount of time updating you on the work being done in Congress to combat the opioid crisis. With 115 Americans dying from overdoses each day, we cannot ignore this problem. On a bipartisan basis, Congress has recognized this epidemic as an urgent situation that requires urgent action.

Last fall, the Health Subcommittee held a day where House members from both parties, on and off the Energy and Commerce Committee could share ideas from communities around the country about remedies for various aspects of the opioid crisis. Over the last few months, we held three hearings on those legislative proposals. Two weeks ago, I told you that the Health Subcommittee advanced 56 bills with solutions to the opioid crisis to the full Energy and Commerce Committee. On Wednesday, the full committee advanced 25 of those bills, which now await action on the House Floor.

Earlier this week, I attended the First Lady's BE BEST Initiative announcement at the White House. Mrs. Trump discussed her efforts to help children and families affected by opioid abuse. As she reminded us on Monday, far too many American children are being harmed by our nation's opioid epidemic. As we continue our work to find solutions for this crisis, I am grateful to have President and Mrs. Trump as partners in our fight.

Currently, we expect to consider this legislation in the next several weeks. Until then, I will continue to update you on my work to help North Texans and all Americans who have been harmed in the crisis. During her speech on Monday, the First Lady highlighted the work of Lily's Place, a nonprofit infant recovery center in West Virginia. Their work, Mrs. Trump said, "is a testament to the extraordinary work that everyday people can do when they put their mind to it."

I believe that we all can make a difference in our nation's fight against the opioid crisis, and am grateful for the parents, teachers, advocates, and everyone working alongside Congress to find solutions.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.